

and was educated at Nelson College and Otago University. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. from the University of New Zealand in 1913, and soon afterwards came to England, where he held the appointments of house-surgeon at the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth, and house-physician at the General Infirmary at Leeds. He was at Leeds in 1914 when the first world war broke out, and immediately volunteered for the R.A.M.C. He took part in the Gallipoli landings, and then served in France for the rest of the war, the last two years with the New Zealand Medical Corps. For his services he was awarded the Military Cross. After the war he returned to New Zealand and settled in general practice at Mount Albert, becoming also honorary physician to the Karitane Hospital, Auckland, in 1922. For five years he was chairman of the board of governors of the hospital, to which he became ultimately consulting physician. He also served on the medical advisory board of the Plunket Society, and was for many years superintendent of the Mount Albert division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and for his work was appointed an officer in the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

During the second world war he was in command of the 9th Field Ambulance for two years, later serving as an assistant director of medical services with the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force in 1943, and as liaison officer in the Dutch hospital ship *Oranje* in 1945. After the war he went to Japan as senior medical officer with the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force and as officer commanding the 6th New Zealand General Hospital. Subsequently he was assistant director of medical services for the Northern military district of New Zealand until 1950, in which year he was awarded the Efficiency Decoration.

Harold Petitt was a great sportsman. As a swimmer, he was champion of Nelson and Nelson College in 1907, and later in life became patron of the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Surf Life Saving Association. He also served on the National Council of Physical Welfare and Recreation. He had a world-wide reputation as a deep-sea angler, being president of the New Zealand Deep Sea Anglers' Association from its foundation, and the New Zealand representative on the International Game Fish Association.

Dr. Petitt leaves a widow. His brother, Dr. William H. Petitt, is in practice in Auckland.

#### E. R. WILLIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. E. R. Willis, who formerly practised in Wellington, Somerset, died suddenly at his home there on April 18. He was 62.

Edward Rendle Willis served as an officer in the Royal Navy during the first world war, but later left the Navy to become a medical student at the London Hospital, for which he played Rugby football, also captaining the cricket eleven in 1925. After qualifying in 1930, he held a house appointment at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital before entering general practice at Wellington, where he became well known. In addition to being honorary secretary to the West Somerset Division of the B.M.A. in 1939 and from 1945 to 1948, he was chairman of the Division from 1950 to 1952. An example of the very best type of general practitioner, Dr. Willis enjoyed his work, and never spared himself; he had, therefore, the affection and gratitude of all his patients, to whom he was both kind and generous. When ill-health compelled him to retire three years ago, he was greatly missed by all.

He leaves a widow, one son, and two daughters.—L. P. M.

#### A. DICKSON STIRLING, D.S.O., M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.

Brigadier A. Dickson Stirling, formerly deputy assistant director-general of Army Medical Services at the War Office, died in Edinburgh on May 2 at the age of 74.

Alexander Dickson Stirling was born at Arbroath, Forfarshire, on June 8, 1886, the second son of the Rev. Alexander

Stirling. From the Arbroath High School he went on to University College, Dundee, to study medicine, and graduated M.B., Ch.B., with distinction, from St. Andrews University in 1907. Four years later he took the D.P.H. After graduation he held the appointments of house-physician and senior house-surgeon at Dundee Royal Infirmary before entering the R.A.M.C. in 1909. The early part of his Service career was spent in the United Kingdom, and from 1911 to 1914 he was in Egypt, being promoted captain in 1912. Soon after the outbreak of the first world war he was sent to France, where he served throughout the war, except for a very brief period in Italy in 1917. During the war he was four times mentioned in dispatches, awarded the D.S.O. in 1918, and appointed a Cavaleiro in the Portuguese Order of Avis in 1919. From the latter year until 1923 he was temporary deputy assistant director-general of Army Medical Services at the War Office, with the rank of major. He then spent some years in India, being deputy assistant director of medical services, Northern Command, from 1925 to 1928. He was deputy assistant director-general at the War Office from 1930 to 1934, and after further service in India he became full colonel in 1937. He was in Britain when the second world war broke out, and was immediately sent to France as a deputy director of medical services, returning at the time of the evacuation in 1940. Soon afterwards he was again mentioned in dispatches in recognition of distinguished services rendered in connexion with operations in the field. He served at home from 1940 to 1944, and in North-West Europe until the end of hostilities. Promoted acting brigadier in 1940 and temporary brigadier in 1941, when he retired from the Army in 1945 he was granted the honorary rank of brigadier.

Dickson Stirling was a member of the War Office committee on shell shock, of which the first Lord Southborough was chairman. Over a long period of time he was a member of the permanent committee of the International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, and was honorary secretary of the fifth international congress held at B.M.A. House, London, in 1929. Always a keen and conscientious officer, he performed the onerous duties of the secretary of the congress with outstanding success.

In 1925 he married Miss Isobel Matthew, and she survives him. There were two sons and two daughters of the marriage.

#### D. CALWELL, M.B., B.Ch.

Dr. D. Calwell, who was a general practitioner in Belfast for nearly 50 years, died suddenly in Whitehead, Co. Antrim, on May 7. He was 72 years of age.

David Calwell was born in Belfast in 1888, the youngest of a large family of which five members (four brothers and a sister) entered the medical profession and were engaged in general practice in Belfast at the same time. He studied medicine at Queen's University, graduating M.B., B.Ch. in 1913. A few months after qualification he put up his plate in a densely populated factory area of Belfast, continuing to practise in the same house until his death. In spite of failing health he was actively engaged in the work of the practice (along with his younger son) until the end, and on the day of his death he conducted the morning surgery.

Some years ago a group of general practitioners in north Belfast of which he was chairman paid him the compliment of commissioning his portrait and presenting it to him in recognition of his services to his medical colleagues in the district. An active member of the British Medical Association, he was a member of the Northern Ireland Branch Council for many years. His wise counsel, based on a lifetime's experience in the practice of medicine, will be greatly missed. Held high in the affection and esteem of his patients and colleagues in all branches of the profession, he went well beyond the bounds of ordinary professional care, sharing wholeheartedly whatever other troubles the family whose doctor and friend he was might be facing. He was accustomed to prescribe and dispense unusual treatments such as a gift of money or turkey and plum pudding from